

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 /126 W

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R 161526Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 110

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS VIEWS OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN)

REF: A) STATE 279785 B) GENEVA 0070

1. IN COURSE JAN 16 GENERAL DISCUSSION MTN SITUATION FOLLOWING PASSAGE TRADE ACT, SENIOR SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH GATT AND MTN (DUNKEL, EBERHARD) TOLD EMBOFF THEY THOUGHT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE SOON LOOKING TOWARD AGREEMENT AT FEBRUARY TNC ON STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF NEXT PHASE NEGOTIATIONS. SWISS HAVE NO PRE-CONCEIVED VIEWS ALTHOUGH THEY GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH PRELIMINARY PHASE STRUCTURE. THEY ALSO WILLING SEE FORMATION SOME AGRICULTURE SECTOR GROUPS ALTHOUGH THEY PREFER NOT MOVE TOWARD INDUSTRIAL SECTOR NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS STAGE.

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2. SWISS THOUGHT IT ALSO IMPORTANT THAT FEBRUARY TNC

ATTEMPT ESTABLISH SOME PRIORITIES FOR WORK DURING 1975 (PRIOR TOKYO DECLARATION TARGET DEADLINE) TO AVOID UNDUE SLIPPAGE. RE TIMING OF TNC MEETING, THEY WOULD PREFER SEE SOME SLIGHT DELAY TO LATTER PART FEBRUARY IN ORDER ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL RESULTS.

3. DUNKEL SAID SWISS WANTED BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN INITIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE HE RECOGNIZES KEY MTN ROLE OF US, EC, AND JAPAN, DUNKEL ALSO CLEARLY SEEKING USEFUL WAY FOR SWITZERLAND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ALL ASPECTS MTN FROM OUTSET OF NEGOTIATING PHASE.

4. DUNKEL AND EBERHARD EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN RE SECTION 126 OF TRADE ACT ON RECIPROCAL NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT, PARTICULARLY MENTION IN PARA D OF POSSIBLE DESIGNATION BY PRESIDENT OF OTHER "MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES" BESIDES EC, CANADA, AND JAPAN. IF THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER IMPORTANT BUT SMALLER TRADING NATIONS SUCH AS SWITZERLAND MIGHT HAVE TO MEET TEST OF "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" CONCESSIONS AT END OF NEGOTIATIONS, THIS WOULD CREATE UNCERTAINTY, MEASUREMENT PROBLEMS, AND POSSIBLY OTHER COMPLICATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0907
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750148/aaaabpqf.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 279785, 75 GENEVA 0070
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS VIEWS OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN)
TAGS: ETRD, SZ, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006